RETAIL PRICES-SEPTEMBER QUARTER,1946.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for retail prices of all items ("C" Series) for September quarter 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-1927 in the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 1092, Toowoomba 1106, Rockhampton 1093, Townsville 1135, Bundaberg 1073, and Warwick 1085.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

Retail Price Index, "C" Series, Percentage Increase in September Quarter, 1946.

City.	From Year Ended June 1939.	From September Quarter 1945.	From June Quarter 1946.
	%	%	%
Brisbane	26·5	2·2	0·2
Toowoomba.. ..	30·0	1·9	0·5
Rockhampton ..	26·9	1·5	0·1
Townsville ..	24·5	2·3	0·5
Bundaberg.. ..	27·6	2·3	0·3
Warwick	32·0	1·8	0·5

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

Retail Prices, Percentage Increase in September Quarter,1946.

City.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1946.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1946.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1946.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Brisbane	13·2	-1·3	82·6	1·6	19·6	0·3
Toowoomba	24·1	-0·3	79·5	1·6	18·7	0·3
Rockhampton	12·5	-0·6	80·5	0·9	20·9	-0·2
Townsville	11·3	0·1	80·7	1·6	18·6	0·2
Bundaberg	14·1	-0·7	79·4	1·6	16·6	0·1
Warwick	18·4	-0·1	80·5	1·7	21·4	0·1

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for food and rent only ("B" Series) for September Quarter 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-1927 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 925, Toowoomba 950, Rockhampton 913, Townsville 984, Bundaberg 892, and Warwick 899.

From June quarter 1946 to September quarter 1946, the "B" Series Index showed decreases in Brisbane, 0·9%, Toowoomba 0·2%, Rockhampton 0·3%, Bundaberg 0·4%, and Warwick 0·1%. Townsville increased 0·1%.

The decreases were caused chiefly by a seasonal fall in the price of eggs.

The rent index increased 0·1% in Townsville and remained stationary in all other towns.

Compared with September quarter 1945, the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane, 0.2%, Toowoomba, 0.3%, Townsville, 0.9%, Bundaberg, 0.9%, Warwick, 0.3%, but decreased in Rockhampton, 0.3%.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane, but increases were recorded in Toowoomba, 0.2%, Rockhampton, 0.5%, Townsville, 0.1%, Bundaberg, 1.2% and Warwick, 0.5%.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, required in September quarter, 1946, to purchase the quantity of goods or housing which would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

Amounts Required in Various Cities to Purchase Equivalent of £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 3.	1. 0. 10.	1. 0. 0.	19. 8.
Rockhampton	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 9.	17. 11.	1. 0. 2.
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9.	1. 1. 11.	1. 0. 1.	1. 0. 1.
Bundaberg ..	19. 8.	1. 1. 3.	15. 10.	19. 11.
Warwick ..	19. 10.	1. 0. 8.	17. 3.	19. 8.

Basic Wage Rates in State Capital Cities.

The following table shows the Retail Price Index Number ("C" Series) for each of the six Capital Cities for the September Quarter of 1946 and the prevailing basic wage rates for males prescribed by Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals respectively. The fourth column shows the amounts which would be required in Brisbane to provide a standard of living equivalent to that provided by each State Basic Wage in its own Capital City. The differences between these amounts and the State Basic Wage for Brisbane, which are given in the last column, show the margin of advantage in real purchasing power provided by the Queensland Basic Wage over each of the other State Basic Wages.

Retail Prices and Basic Wage Rates - September Quarter 1946.

Capital City.	Retail Price Index ("C" Series) September, 1946.	Commonwealth Court Basic Wage for Males.	State Court Basic Wage for Males.	Equivalent at Brisbane prices, of each State Basic Wage.	Margin of Purchasing Power in Favour of Brisbane State Basic Wage.
	Index.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Brisbane ..	1092	4. 14. 0.	4. 18. 0.	4. 18. 0.	- -
Sydney ..	1167	5. 1. 0.	5. 1. 0.	4. 14. 6.	3. 6.
Melbourne ..	1149	4. 19. 0.	4. 19. 0.	4. 14. 1.	3. 11.
Adelaide ..	1121	4. 15. 0.	4. 18. 6.	4. 15. 11.	2. 1.
Perth ..	1128	4. 15. 0.	5. 2. 1.	4. 18. 10.	-0. 10.(a)
Hobart ..	1143	4. 17. 0.	4. 17. 0.	4. 12. 8.	5. 4.

(a) Margin in favour of Perth.

The rise in the "C" Series Index Number during the quarter ended September 1946 caused a "cost-of-living" addition of 1s.0d. to the Commonwealth Basic Wage in Sydney and Hobart. Other Capital Cities were unchanged. A rise during the quarter of 2 points (from 1090 to 1092) in the Brisbane index, however, brought it within 1 point of the figure (1093) required for a rise of 1s.0d. in the basic wage.

Since the Commonwealth "Price Ceiling" was introduced in April 1943, the "C" Series Indexes for Brisbane and the "five Queensland Cities" have each risen by 29 points. As $12\frac{1}{2}$ points are equivalent to 1s.0d. in the Commonwealth Basic Wage, this rise represents 2s.4d., and the Basic Wage (which is adjusted by amounts of not less than 1s.0d.) has risen from £4.12.0 to £4.14.0.

The State Basic Wage for Brisbane has been raised in the same period by 3s.0d. from £4.15.0 to £4.18.0.

COLIN CLARK,

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

BRISBANE,

20th November, 1946.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals.)

CITY.	Year Ended Dec., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Sept., 1946.	QUARTERS ENDED - September 1945.	December 1945.	March 1946.	June 1946.	September 1946.
Brisbane ..	917	863	1084	1069	1074	1081	1090	1092
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1098	1085	1088	1095	1101	1106
Rockhampton	903	861	1088	1077	1080	1086	1092	1093
Townsville ..	1023	912	1125	1109	1114	1123	1129	1135
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1065	1049	1056	1061	1070	1073
Weighted Average Five Cities (a)	915	864	1087	1073	1077	1084	1093	1095
Warwick ..	914	822	1078	1066	1071	1075	1080	1085

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) INDEX - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ended Dec., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Sept., 1946.	QUARTERS ENDED - September 1945.	December, 1945.	March, 1946.	June, 1946.	September, 1946.
Brisbane ..	901	852	927	923	922	929	933	925
Toowoomba ..	833	821	951	947	946	954	952	950
Rockhampton	858	837	914	916	911	916	916	913
Townsville ..	1047	916	982	975	976	986	983	984
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	890	884	880	892	896	892
Weighted Average Five Cities (a)	892	851	931	927	925	933	935	929
Warwick ..	841	768	898	896	893	900	900	899

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.
Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF - June, 1946.	Sept., 1946.	Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF - June, 1946.	Sept., 1946.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked 1 lb.	3.57	4.13	4.14
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.65	12.05
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.93	3.93				
Jam (Plum) 1½lb.	8.02	12.66	12.43	Beef - Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.65	17.05
Raisins 1 lb.	10.57	12.91	12.91				
Potatoes 7 lb.	14.88	8.36	8.36	Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.95	7.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.98	2.98				
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.97	6.97	Beef - Rolled Brisket 1 lb.	5.48	8.25	7.55
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.82				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.14	15.14	Mutton - Leg 1 lb.	7.75	8.95	8.55
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.91	22.00	Mutton - Chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.30	9.00